

**Executive Summary for Student Learning Outcomes  
Program Review, 2008  
Patricia J. O’Keefe, SLO Coordinator**

**Overview:**

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), both assessment and measures, are embedded in the Program Review documents. Each program review answers five prompts: 1) list three to five Program Level SLOs, 2) align Program Level SLOs with College Goals, 3) describe assessment measures, 4) document student success, and 5) note future improvement. All forty-four program reviews completed this process. The next few paragraphs will address the three major areas for assessment of student learning including critical thinking, subject expertise, and reflecting and/or responding to others; various methods for assessing SLOs across programs; capturing data of student success; and finally, some noted areas for future improvements.

**Discussion:**

Most Program Level SLOs focused on the three following categories: Critical Thinking, Subject Level Expertise, and Reflecting or Responding to others. Students at the College of Marin apply problem-solving skills, evaluate a range of visual experiences, identify appropriate theories to evaluate events, and understand the skills of hypothesis testing, to list just a few expectations. In addition to higher order thinking skills, students learn foundational skills and attitudes leading to success in college classrooms, major topic areas, define terms from particular fields, know best practices, comprehend languages of the discipline, operate in a laboratory environment, locate theoretical and applied research, acquire necessary background information to transfer to major field, and effectively communicate within the college classroom. Finally, students at the College of Marin are trained to work collaboratively with others, appreciate cultural differences, behave in a college classroom, navigate the college system, work in groups and teams, and finally, embrace ethical standards of their chosen field.

There are a wide variety of methods used across the college to measure the progress and completion of students in Transfer Programs, Basic Skills, Life Long Learning and Workforce Development/Vocational Training. Some of these methods are: tracking job offers for students on data bases, noting student completion and success rates (many in the 90%), reviewing portfolios, pre- and post-testing students in program, tracking behavioral progress, using rubrics, testing data, and reviewing retention, exercising rigor while providing access and support, standardizing examinations from a particular field, preparing students for the next level course and measuring their success rates, and tracking students to see if they meet or exceed entrance level testing for certification. This list just begins to develop a picture of the multiple methods for measuring student success.

The College of Marin is known for its outstanding, supportive, and vibrant teaching and learning experiences. Our motto for College of Marin’s students is, “Start

Here, Go Far!” Our student success and retention rates are noted as either extremely high (90%+) or increasing with new full-time instructors (60% to 73% in one year). Our holistic support is often cited as a reason for student retention and success. Here are just a few of our fine works: excellence in performing and visual arts, diverse faculty remaining current in the sciences, numerous examples of former students celebrated in their field of study, availability of technology, support staff, and equipment supplies, end of the year festivals, displays, performances, etc. Threaded through all of these great teaching moments is a faculty dedicated to students and a staff support team providing resources and expertise.

In higher education, there is always room for improvement and innovation. The faculty is aware of areas to focus their attention to improve student learning. Some common areas of concern are adapting older materials to new mediums and the resources necessary to make these changes, further training in the area of developmental learning techniques, increasing offerings for targeted audiences, providing clear and concise rubrics that facilitate student learning while recognizing creativity and excellence, and finally, increasing technical support, staff and full-time faculty. Our new tracking system, Banner, goes live this month. Many of the faculty expressed their hopes in solving some problems associated with tracking student progress by using this new technology.

### **SLOs Supporting Documents:**

There are three binders available for your review on Student Learning Outcomes. This binder contains all the Program Review SLOs using five prompts. There is also a supplemental binder with attachments addressing specific measures, tools, assignments, and rubrics, as well as data to support SLOs claims. In addition, a third binder addresses the overall progress of Student Learning Outcomes at the College of Marin on three levels: College-Wide, Program, and Course Level. Feel free to examine all the materials provided.